

PRESIDENT'S ACTION MAY PREVENT BLOODY REVOLUTION IN COLORADO

BY N. D. COCHRAN

I presume many have tried to understand the industrial war through its manifestations at Lawrence, at Paterson, at Calumet, in West Virginia and Colorado and in other spots all over the country.

At times some little light was thrown on the situation by interviews with strike leaders—who don't often speak frankly to newspaper men because they don't trust many newspapers. On the other side, employers talk very little for publication, because publicity is not what they want. Publicity means light, and men who are in the wrong love darkness.

We form our opinions, therefore, on insufficient evidence. We don't get the truth. We don't learn the underlying causes and hence don't understand the motives. We understand in a vague sort of way that men are fighting for the right to organize, and then capital comes along with some such gush as that of young Prince Rockefeller—about the rights of non-union workmen to remain non-union, the inviolability of contracts, the right to free contract, etc.

But what we don't get at, is what is going on in the minds of striking workmen themselves; and I believe the rank and file of labor in this country today is much more radical and revolutionary than any of their leaders.

Knowing something of what labor leaders and the rank and file really think and feel, as well as what they say for publication, I have been surprised that what has just happened in Colorado hasn't happened long ago.

I don't believe the people of Chicago, or of the country, know any more of what is going on in the minds of workmen today than the king and the nobles of France knew just before the storming of the bastille.

Outside of labor's ranks, most men depend upon the daily newspapers for the information upon which they base their opinions. A great majority of the newspapers do not get down to the heart of things. I don't think many of the publishers themselves know what is going on. Even the men under them don't print all they know, because they are influenced by the atmosphere in which they work; and they feel that the boss doesn't want certain news published even though they don't get explicit orders to suppress it.

I know enough of the temper of the workers in this country to believe that they are in full sympathy with the action of the Colorado miners, in arming themselves and fighting the gunmen and state militia to the death to protect themselves and their wives and children.

I can see how I would think differently if I depended upon the daily newspapers and what they get from the press associations for my information. But I don't depend upon them. I read daily some newspapers that most people in Chicago never see—newspapers—most of them weeklies—that are published by the working class itself.

It was through reading one of these newspapers published wholly by workmen that I learned something of the truth about the situation at